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Published in the interest of the people of Aberdeen Proving Ground

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The recycling pickup for Wednesday, April 2, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.

ACS sponsors Operation Yellow Ribbon March 29

On March 29, Army Community Service and Army Family Building will sponsor Operation Yellow Ribbon to show support to U.S. forces by making and distributing yellow ribbons throughout the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas. The APG community is invited to come together as one in support of our military men and women, as well as our families, during these challenging times.

The event will take place at the Aberdeen Area ACS, building 2754, 9 to 11:30 a.m.; and 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the Edgewood Area ACS, Quiet Lodge, building 4630. Participants can make and/or take ribbons to wear on lapels, tie on trees, fences, car antennas, etc. Light refreshments will be served at both locations.

For more information, call Celestine Beckett, chief, ACS, 410-278-2500, or Fred Posadas, AFTB program manager, 410-278-2453.

Online resource for Operation Iraqi Freedom

A reference for frequently asked questions about Operation Iraqi Freedom, to include supporting soldiers, mail, family related issues and locating soldiers is at http://www.army.mil/operations/iraq/faq.html.

VFW offers free dinner, show

The Junior Girls Unit of the Dublin-Darlington VFW Post 10146 is hosting a USO show to honor all past and present military to raise funds for Operation USO Care Package March

The first show and buffet dinner at 2 p.m., specifically for active-duty military and their family members, is free of charge. The second show and buffet dinner at 4 p.m. will be open to the general public for \$10 per person.

The VFW is located at 3440 Conowingo Road (on Rt. 1 near Rt. 136) in Street. To reserve a seat, call 410-457-5461. For

See SHORTS, page 4

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Page 2

Recognizing contributions of women

Page 3

NG pilots train

for new type of war

Page 5

Community notes

Page 6

Remembering Korea

Page 8

Page 12

Army news

Page 14
Sports



Suiting up

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Sgt. Dana Blasberg, center, 369th Engineer Detachment (Firefighting) from the Pennsylvania Army Reserve, gets helped into a Level-A HAZMAT suit by APG firefighter Acting Capt. Steve Hinch, left, and Harold Travers. See story on page 13.

Army activates Family Assistance Hotline

Army News Service

The U.S. Army has established a toll-free Family Assistance Hotline for Operation Iraqi Freedom at 1-800-833-6622.

The hotline was established by the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center in conjunction with the Army Family Liaison Office staff to provide referrals and information to the families of deployed or activated soldiers.

The hotline is toll free when called from the continental United States, Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands. The hotline staff will field calls from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily Eastern Standard Time to answer family support-related questions. Emergency assistance will be provided between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. EST, officials said.

"Our staff will assist all callers by listening, explaining, and directing them to the most helpful resources we can," said Gail Lovisone, manager of CFSC's Family Assistance Hotline call center

Lovisone emphasized that the first place families of active-duty soldiers should contact is Army Community Service or the unit rear detachment at the installation from which the soldiers deployed.

"The mission of our Family Assistance Hotline is to provide Army families caring support in the form of accurate information, useful resources, and helpful referrals related to family issues," said Brig. Gen. Robert L. Decker, commander of the CFSC, the Army agency responsible for morale, welfare and recreation.

"This Family Assistance Hotline is a 'safety net' for those who have exhausted all other resources," Decker said. "We will do everything we can to help each and every caller."

The hotline is intended for use only by family members of soldiers on active duty as well as those in the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve called to active duty.

After hearing a short, recorded message, callers will be able to speak to hotline staff members who have access to extensive reference materials. Staff will be unable to answer questions about casualties or soldiers wounded or missing in action.

Because of the sensitivity of this information, the Army's Casualty Assistance Office will first contact the soldier's immediate family. Once the Army is certain that the soldier's next of kin have been notified, information about soldiers' deaths will then be released to the public through news releases and other means such as the media and Department of Defense Web sites.

Due to operational security and force protection concerns, CFSC hotline staff cannot provide locator services (addresses) for soldiers or units, or information about operational matters.

The Army National Guard and the Army Reserve state and regional support commands also operate assistance lines, though they may not always be toll free. Information is also available at www.guardfamily.org and www.army.mil/usar.

See HOTLINE, page 11

Watch card

Do observe and report:

• Unusual or suspicious activity or suspected surveillance.

• Unusual questions or requests for information relating to capabilities, limitations, or operational information.

- Unusual vehicles operating
- in or around the installation.Unusual phone calls,
- Unusual contacts on or off post.
- Unusual aerial activity
- near or around installation.Any possible compro-

mise of sensitive information. **Do not:**

messages, or e-mails.

- Discuss any aspect of
- military operations or planning.
- Discuss military capabilities or limitations.
- Discuss force protection measures, capabilities, or posture.
- Disclose any information related to unit deployments. Report any suspicious activity immediately to APG Police:

Aberdeen Area 410-306-2222 Edgewood Area 410-436-2222 Your call may save lives.

Troop Support mail policy stressed

Department of Defense

To bolster force protection, the general public is urged not to send unsolicited mail, care packages or donations to service members forward deployed unless you are a family member, loved one or personal friend.

On Oct. 30, 2002, the Department of Defense suspended the "Operation Dear Abby" and "Any Servicemember" mail programs due to force protection concerns. Although these programs provide an excellent means of support to friends and loved ones stationed overseas, they also provide an avenue to introduce hazardous substances or materials into the mail system from unknown sources.

Unsolicited mail, packages and donations from organizations and individuals also compete for limited airlift space used to transport supplies, war-fighting materiel and mail from family and loved ones.

Recently, DoD has become aware of organizations and individuals who continue to support some form of the "Any Servicemember" program by using the names and addresses of individual service members and unit addresses. These programs are usually supported by well-intentioned, thoughtful and patriotic groups who are simply unaware of the new risks facing deployed military forces. Some individuals and groups publicize the names and addresses of service members, ships or units on Web sites, with good intentions. The result, however, is a potential danger to the troops they wish to support.

DoD cannot support creative and well-intentioned efforts that defeat force protection measures, but can instead recommend alternatives to mail and donation programs.

To show support to troops overseas, the following are recom-

mended: See MAIL, page 12

DOIM advises wartime discretion in computer use

Yvonne Johnson APG News

Due to the defensive posture the nation assumed since starting the war on terrorism, concerns about the unauthorized use of government computers remain high among information managers on Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Byrne Huntley, director of the APG Garrison's Directorate of Information Management, said that while threats to computer networks exist on the outside, the unauthorized downloading of prohibited programs and materials and the overuse of unnecessary e-mails which tax and weaken networks, occurs far too frequently on government computers.

"Since Sept. 11, most of what we've done has been to shore up defenses to prevent vulnerabilities," Huntley said, adding that periodic examinations of the installation networks reveal repeated incidents of tampering.

"Right now, we are examining the bad guys as often as three times a month. Ten percent turn into attempts to permeate our defenses," he said.

Although it is rare for an attempt from the outside to succeed, the same is not so for employees whose actions weaken our defenses, Huntley added.

"The problem is that instead of looking outward [for potential hackers], we have to spend more time looking inward. Not withstanding that, we're very good at what we do, the frequency is starting to overwhelm us," he said.

Ultimately, the message to APG employees is that desktops are not to be modified. Under no circumstances should [a government employee] ever download a program onto a government computer," Huntley said.

Prohibited programs include music Web sites such as the popular KAZAA, chat rooms and instant messaging sites.

See COMPUTER, page 11

Wrong entry date may lead to less retirement

Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs

A soldier could be shortchanged at the time of retirement or erroneously receive a bonus if the date he signed his military contract is wrong in his records.

The Army, however, is giving soldiers a chance to make sure their date of initial entry into military service, also known as DIEMS, is accurate. A DIEMS date is when a service member enters into a contract with the military. It could be when an enlisted soldier signed the delayed entry contract or when an officer signed an ROTC scholarship contract.

Breaks in service do not change a DIEMS date, said Melissa Dean, a human resource specialist at the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command. Service in other branches also counts toward the initial entry date, she said. The goal is to record the earliest date possible, Dean added. DIEMS, however, should not be confused with the basic active service date, which is the date when a soldier enters active duty.

Both enlisted soldiers and officers can check their DIEMS at https://www.perscom.army.mil/persinsd/dqm_home.htm. Currently only individuals with a BASD of Jan. 1, 1979 through Dec. 31, 1982 can go to the site to see if their date is correct. Soldiers will be able to check their dates in increments based on their BASD.

Due to the large number of officer and enlisted files that require validation, the schedule for soldiers to review their DIEMS on-line is: April 2 though June 1 for soldiers with a BASD between Jan. 1, 1983 to Dec. 31, 1986; June 2 through Aug. 1 for soldiers with a BASD between Jan. 1, 1987 to Dec. 31, 1989. More dates will be scheduled soon, but the priority is senior personnel, who are about to retire, said Army officials.

Messages explaining what DIEMS is and how soldiers can check and change their dates if necessary will be e-mailed to **See RETIREMENT, page 12**

Good news, the drought is over

Barry Decker

Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. lifted water restrictions for Harford County and other areas served by Baltimore's water supply March 20. This allows Harford County and the City of Aberdeen, which receive a portion of their municipal supplies from the Baltimore City Water Supply System, to cancel their restrictions and return to normal water use.

Consequently, Aberdeen Proving Ground has cancelled its restrictions and will return to normal water use.

"Everyone is asked to conserve water wherever possible during their daily activities to preclude the necessity of going back to water restrictions later on this year," said Col. Mardi U. Mark, garrison and deputy installation commander.

Housing area residents can help by operating their dishwashers and washing machines for full loads only. Turning off the tap while brushing teeth and rinsing with a single cup of water goes a long way in conserving water.

"Thank you for all of your support in water conservation measures that affected our daily lives during the past year," Mark said. "We could not have done it without your suggestions and cooperation."

Women's History Month

F.E.W. remembers building 509

Eva Mims

U.S Army Chemical Materials Agency

(Author's note: March is Women's History Month. This year's theme, "Women Pioneering the Future" encourages the recognition of women who have touched both our nation's and our own personal history. The Maryland Tri-County Chapter of Federally Employed Women remembers, with fondness, the women who have, through service and sacrifice, helped to shape the foundations of advancement for women in the federal workforce. This article is dedicated to their memory.)

In 1945, World War II was drawing to a close, and the conflict in Korea was still in the distant future. While most ablebodied men of age were supporting the war effort, women were being hired in record numbers to supplement the industrial labor force.

Edgewood Arsenal hired thousands of local women to fill the many vacant unskilled, laborer positions. Women soon found themselves dealing with all of the pressures of work — and, sadly, all of the dangers as well.

On May 25, 1945, the Edgewood Arsenal suffered its single worst accident; all of the casualties were women. An ordnance explosion in building 509 claimed the lives of 12 female workers. Dozens more were seriously injured that day but lived to tell their story. This is one of them.

"In May of 1945, there were 3,000 women working at Edgewood Arsenal, just slightly more than 50 percent of the workforce", said Jeffrey K. Smart, U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command's command historian. "Up until the accident in building 509, other people had died in research and development related accidents, but this was the first explosive incident dealing with female casualties."

Carrie Hurd Johnson was a middle aged black mother eager to work. In 1945, the primary source of employment for a black woman was domestic service. Black women at the Edgewood Arsenal earned as much as \$18 per week — more than domestics, though only about half the amount of their white counterparts. When the opportunity arose Johnson took a job at the Arsenal, and soon afterwards, helped her daughter, Charlotte, get hired as well. Charlotte was assigned a janitorial position in building 509

"Building 509 was a nice building," Charlotte recalled. "They were making grenades in there, but there were no fuses, so it was a safe place to work. The work wasn't too hard, and the money was good."

Working as a janitor, Charlotte didn't make as much money as the other workers, but she still gave every penny to her mother to help make ends meet.

In the late spring of 1945, things changed in building 509. A group of women from the Ordnance Assembly Plant were brought in to begin the process of adding igniter fuses to the assembled grenades. These women knew what they were doing and went about their work with a quiet, meticulous intensity.

Despite the new workers' skills, the tone of the building changed drastically. Charlotte went about her work more quickly and quietly, spending as little time as possible in the building's main assembly room.

Just before 3:30 p.m., May 25, Charlotte, on her way to the restroom, moved quickly through building 509. She didn't speak or even look directly at the women bent over their work. There was no conversing or friendly joking as she moved through the workroom. No singing or gossiping or bragging about kids. These women were about a business of the most serious kind, and Charlotte did not want to disturb them.

She entered the shower room on her way to the bathroom, and unconsciously breathed a sigh of relief as she shut the door behind her, relieved to be separated from the work in the other room, even if only by a single door. Charlotte turned, took a step towards the washroom, and all hell broke loose.

In the official transcripts dated May 26, Munitions Handler, Morrison Garrison, testified that he survived the blast only because he saw it coming.

Garrison was facing the assembly line talking to a co-worker a few feet away when he noticed one of the women having difficulty.

"The first thing I saw," he reported, "was the woman on the opposite side stuck this thing down in [it] and all at once it went and stuff flew all over the place. The burster went off in her hand as she was tightening it in the air vise. After that, I started to run out and when I got in between the two doors, I heard the big



Photo courtesy SBCCOM Historical Research and Response Team Workers run fire hoses through an adjacent building as smoke billows from the burning building 509 shortly after the May 25, 1945 explosion.

blast."

Behind a closed door, Charlotte felt the wind ripped from her lungs as she flew violently through the air. She landed full force on a pile of rubble which had, seconds before, been a retainer wall. The building shook, and shook again. Reality screamed and underscored itself in horrific increments with hundreds of smaller explosions. The unthinkable had happened. Instinctively, Charlotte thought to herself, "This is it."

Maj. John Beebe Jr., then chief of Edgewood Arsenal's Military Intelligence

Division, raced to the scene for fear that sabotage may have been involved in the explosion. His sworn testimony detailed what he found.

"I saw that the wall into the women's restroom...had been blown in and broken up considerably. I saw that the line of lockers in the women's lab had been blown over against the toilet booths. There were hundreds of exploded grenade cans over the floor. There was a large tray of fuses screwed into adopters. Most of these had been determed."

adapters...Most of these had been detonated."

Charlotte didn't even realize she was screaming until forced, by the smoke and fumes, to stop. She coughed in the darkness for what seemed like forever. When she opened her eyes, she was laying face down. She could still hear explosions going off, as well as distant screams and cries for help.

Smoke and flames were everywhere. Charlotte closed her eyes, drew a breath and swallowed what seemed like handfuls of hot ash. Dust filled her lungs, triggering more coughs.

No longer able to scream, she desperately searched for a way out. The smoke was no longer still, but moving. She followed the smoke's path with her eyes and saw it escape through a gaping hole that had been the building's roof. Charlotte rose up on her elbows and began dragging herself through the rubble.

Again, the coughing started and she stopped to catch her breath. Suddenly through the darkness, she heard a voice: "Here's one." Hands reached for her, turned her over, picked her up. With eyes closed now, she felt herself being lifted, carried from the rubble, placed in a vehicle, and rushed from the edge of darkness, back to life.

The injured were first taken to the Station Hospital, the post hospital located where the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense now stands. Nine women were declared dead on arrival. Three more died in the early morning hours of the next day. Thirty-eight people, men and women, were treated and released; 21 were hospitalized suffering from serious injuries ranging from third degree burns to severe smoke inhalation. Charlotte was among those 21, suffering from second-

degree burns and extensive tracheobronchitis.

Carrie Hurd Johnson's heart almost stopped when she saw the smoke coming from building 509. She ran all the way to the building. When she arrived, the workers told her that Charlotte had been found dead. No one could say where she'd been found or how she had died.

Refusing to believe it, she ran all the way to Station Hospital demanding to see the survivors. It wasn't until the next morning that she was finally let in. She searched frantically from bed to bed until she found Charlotte, burned and unable to speak, but alive

For Charlotte, the memory of those first few hours in Station Hospital are her most vivid of that day.

"I remember waking up somewhere with a bunch of women and they had me in something like a casket. I couldn't look around; I could only look up. I remember there was one woman right next to me; I heard her screaming and screaming and after awhile she wasn't screaming [any] more; she died. There were a couple of women in there that died, but they were right there in the room when it happened. I was in the next room, thank God."

Two weeks later, Carrie was transferred to the Marine Hospital in Wyman Park, Baltimore, where she spent nearly three months and underwent three surgeries to restore her voice.

"The doctors told me that I'd never talk again," remembers Charlotte, "but I never accepted it. I knew it was the grace of God that had kept me among the living and that sooner or later, He was gonna give me back my voice. I remember crying one day after I got out the hospital, and my cousin asked me what was wrong. I looked at her and mouthed the words, 'I'm gonna talk again! I'm gonna talk again."

It was years later when Charlotte, now married with three children, finally regained her voice.

"It was the scariest thing in the world," she recalls. "I hadn't been able to speak above a whisper for years. Couldn't even call my kids to come in from playing outside. But one day I went to yell at them for doing something wrong, and this horrible voice came out, so loud it scared me. I looked over my shoulder to see who it was that sounded so bad."

The official summary of the investigation following the explosion of May 25, included numerous safety recommendations ranging from physically separating workers engaged in hazardous activities from workers in common areas, to improved fire wall protection and implementing standard safety procedures in hazardous areas. Many of the standard operating procedures in place today were initiated in the years following the

See WOMEN, page 13

APG News

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: AMSSB-GIM, APG, MD 21005-5005, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 8,900.

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Deadline for copy is Thursday at noon for the following Thursday's paper.

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Web site	

CONTEMPLATING THE WAR



Photo by JOSHUA MCKERROW

Spcs. Cody Tarr, left, cleans an ammunition clip while watching the attack on Iraq live with James Hauser. Both are assigned to the 332nd Engineer Company, Pennsylvania Army Reserve.





Photo courtesy MDARNG

Sgts. Jonathan Slaten, left, and William (Bill) C. Grafton Jr., UH-60 crewchiefs assigned to Detachment 1, 1159th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) at the Maryland Army National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility in the Edgewood Area, stand attentively listening to their commander's instructions during a preflight discussion. Both men received the Army Achievement Medal for their contributions to recent training in preparation for Operation Enduring Freedom.

National Guardsmen receive Army award

Chief Warrant Officer ed by the unit's commanding **Bud Walker MDARNG**

Two National Guardsmen assigned as UH-60 crew chiefs to Detachment 1, 1159th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) of the Maryland Army National Guard at Edgewood Area were presented the Army Achievement Medal at the Army Aviation Support Facility at the Edgewood Armory, March 16.

Grafton Jr. of Airville, Pa., and Sgt. Jonathan Slaten received the award for their contributions to the successful deployment of aircraft and crews to the Army's High Altitude Training School in Eagle, Colo.

The awards were present-

officer Lt. Mark Fulk

"These soldiers put in the extra hours of work to ensure our aircraft were available for the demanding flying that was part of this deployment", said Fulk. "They earned the respect of the officers and their peers for the way they performed their duties."

Grafton is a full-time electrical project designer and a 1996 graduate of RETS Technical Institute. He and Sgt. William (Bill) C. his wife Annie reside in Airville, Pa., with their three children.

Slaten, a 1993 graduate of Elkton High School, is a technician at the AASF. He and his wife Suzanne reside in Edgewood.

(Editor's note: See related story top of page.)

Pilots train for new type of war

Chief Warrant Officer Bud times accidents. Walker **MDARNG**

The U.S. Army found itself fighting a new kind of war in Afghanistan. It was a war being fought high in the mountains at altitudes sometimes exceeding 15,000 feet above sea level.

At these altitudes helicopter pilots delivering troops and supplies to battle sites found their aircraft did not perform as they had at lower elevations. In the high, thin air their aircraft often did not produce sufficient power to carry the loads they were tasked with delivering, and this led to problems and some-

Pilots of Maryland Army National Guard's Detachment 1, 1159th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) recently completed training on the Army's newest techniques on how to predict aircraft performance under extreme conditions. The training, conducted by Chief Warrant Officer Gilbert Doherty of Kensington, Md., instructed pilots on how to calculate the effects of temperature, altitude and weight on the ability of an aircraft to perform its mission.

"In a combat environment our aircrews will be asked to evacuate woundadverse conditions. This new informa-

tion about aircraft performance planning will ensure our troops can safely perform their mission", Doherty said.

Some of the detachment's crews have completed even more in depth training by attending the Army's High Altitude Training School in Eagle, Colo. The school, operated by the Colorado Army National Guard, is the only school of its type in the military and trains pilots from all branches of the armed forces. Aircrews get actual flying experience operating at high altitudes in mountainous terrain.

The detachment is headquartered in ed soldiers under some of the most Edgewood, and is commanded by Lt. Mark Fulk of Gettysburg, Pa.

Despite weather, MWR job fair successful

Sonya P. Reynolds APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground Morale, Welfare and Recreation held a job fair at the Five Points Sheraton Hotel in Aberdeen, March 6.

The number of applicants that showed up nearly matched the 132 available positions, in spite of the cold rainy day.

Gwen Meadows, marketing director, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, said several positions were filled before noon, adding that they weren't sure how the event would fare, given the weather, and noted it got off to a great start.

that's pretty good," Meadows said. "We almost have Chesapeake Challenge Amusement Park filled up. We still need more lifeguards and that's our biggest concern. We have 13 more slots to Program supervisors aimed to fill positions such as recreational

"We hired about eight people within the first two hours and

aids, lifeguards, personnel trainers, pool managers, cooks, bartenders, aerobic instructors, etc.

Doris Reitzle, manager, Top of the Bay, said she was looking for waiters and kitchen help but hired only one individual and discussed particulars with four.

Reitzle noted that at the job fair two years ago, she managed to hire two people with experience in food service within the same time frame.

She did say, however, when applicants come out for this job fair and get hired, they don't stay in the position very long.

"It most cases they are looking for something just to get by for the moment," Reitzle said.

Jobs offered were seasonal summer positions only said Eugene Harris, manager/golf professional, Exton Golf Course. He said MWR tries to get an early start in filling positions for the summer.

"We tried to start this early in the year so the kids can have a summer job. I've hired three people for the golf course at

Edgewood and I'm expecting three more.

Harris said the positions offered are not high paying ones but they are great jobs for teens to have during the summer. He added most people that attend the job fair are usually students seeking part-time work, and that each department is only allowed to hire a handful of people with minimum hours.

"When they come to this job fair they are just looking for parttime work and should not expect anymore," Harris said. "New hires can't work more than 39 hours per pay period and they are just seasonal positions."

Attendees were aware that jobs offered were only part-time seasonal positions, and one job seeker said that's why he attended the

"I'm looking for a second job. I already have one job but I want something to supplement my income," said Dennis Underwood,

He also mentioned that it's a great thing that MWR sponsored the job fair and opened it to the community.

Of the 130 plus job seekers, 83 applications were distributed and 29 job offers were made at the event. "I'm looking to fill positions as recreational aids and in food

service. The posted positions are flexible and part-time. It is a slow turn out because of the weather," said Gayla Hurley, administrative assistant, Moral, Welfare and Recreations, adding that the turnout was not bad considering how it could have been if the event was held on APG, with heightened security.

The job fair is not something that MWR sponsors ever year. The decision to hold such an event depends on current available positions each year.

"This is the second job fair that MWR has held but we don't call it the second annual. We are not sure if there will be a third one," said Jean Futty, Nonappropriated Funds human resources officer.

Fact of the Week



Close to two billion gallons of wastewater from area sewage treatment plants flow into the Chesapeake Bay every day.

- Chesapeake Bay Foundation

information on the day's entertainment, see Community Notes, page 5.

Water system flushing to begin

Water system operators in the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas will be performing annual flushing of the Aberdeen Proving Ground water systems during the month of April. Signs will be posted in the housing areas announcing when flushing is planned or in progress.

Everyone's help is needed. Those living in government housing units are asked to flush their private quarter's system after their area has been flushed, including hot water heaters.

Employees working in government buildings need to do the same.

Flushing the water systems is the first line of defense again brown water.

The normal full water system flushing in 2002 was reduced to conserve water. The only flushing performed was to reduce or eliminate reports of brown water.

Tax Center open thru April 15

APG's Tax Center re-mains open thru April 15. All active duty, retirees and their spouses are eligible for free tax preparation and free electronic tax filing. Call 410 278-1208 for an appointment. 1040 EZ filers can walk-in without an appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 to 11 a.m.

Top of the Bay lunch hours change

Top of the Bay will expand its lunch operation on a trial basis March 27 through April 30. The new lunch hours are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Participation in the CWS or RDO every other Friday continues, therefore, no lunch.

For more information, call U. Doris Reitzle, 410-278-3062, or Louise Glose, 410-278-2552.

Town Hall meeting rescheduled

Post Shorts

The Town Hall Meeting formerly scheduled for March 24 has been rescheduled for April 9, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command Conference Center, building E-4810.

The meeting is open to the entire community. For those who are unable to attend, the meeting will also be broadcast on APG Cable Channel 3. Briefing slides will be posted on the APG Web site on April 9.

Telephonic questions will be accepted during the Town Hall meeting via 410-436-7849. Prior to the meeting, questions will be accepted electronically. Send e-mails to linda.holloway@usag.apg.arm y.mil or call 410-306-4520.

ACS holds 'Dad's Boot Camp'

Parents and Children Together invites all fathers to the "Dad's Boot Camp," March 31, at Army Community Service, building 2754 Roadman at Aberdeen Proving Ground. For more information, call Diana Hayes, Parents and Children Together Program coordinator, 410-278-4372. RSVP by March 28.

ADAPT Course

The Army Drug and Alcohol Prevention course will be held April 21 to 24, 5 to 7 p.m. and April 25, 5 to 9 p.m. All military families and civilian employees are invited to attend. For more information, call Troy Denson at 410-278-3137.

Deployment Quarterly

The Deployment Quarterly is a free magazine published by the Deployment Health Support Directorate Public Affairs Office. To preview the current issue, or read the online version visit http://www.deploymentlink.osd.mil/news/dquarterly/winter03/index.html.

To receive a copy of the publication at home or the office, or to update an address, fill out the online subscription form at http://www.deploymentlink.osd.mil/dq_signup.htm

For more information, or to be placed on the mailing list, call 800-497-6261.

Deployment Quarterly invites news stories and pictures. Topics should be of general interest to active duty, Reserve Component members, veterans and families. Send submissions with author's name, phone number, e-mail and complete mailing address to Deployment Health Support Directorate, Public Affairs Office, 5113 Leesburg Pike, Suite 901, Falls Church, VA 22041.

Letters to the editor must be signed and include the writer's full name, city and state (or city and country) and mailing address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing.

Free medical billing class

The Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program will offer a free Medical Billing class, 1 to 4 p.m. every Monday, April 7 to May 12, in the Army Community Service Classroom.

The class provides a fundamental understanding of medical insurance billing and the life cycle of an insurance claim in relation to the physician's practice.

Attendees must attend ALL sessions to get a certificate of completion from Harford Community College.

Topics include: introduction to claims, preparation and submission, overview of major insurance carriers, insurance and accounts receivable management, overview of the use of information systems in the reimbursement process.

The class is open to all military family members with valid I.D. cards. For more information, call Marilyn Howard, Employment Readiness Manager, ACS, building 2754, 410-278-9669/7474. Anyone interested must register at the ACS building.

Vet clinics available

The clinic hours are from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and are by appointment only. To schedule, call the VTF at 410-278-3911/4604.

On March 27, the VTF will conduct a walk-in clinic from noon until 7 p.m. for immunizations/vaccinations only. No "sick call" will be seen.

For further information, call the VTF.

Orientation for newcomers scheduled

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Community Information Forum, formerly APG Newcomer Orientation, will be held at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, April 24, 1 to 3 p.m. All military and civilian personnel, retirees and their family members are invited to attend.

More than 55 representatives of support agencies/organizations will be present to discuss the latest information on their activities. Give-aways will be available and door prizes awarded.

For more information, call Godofredo Posadas, Family Well-Being Program manager, Army Community Service, 278-2453/7474.

NAF employees to be recognized

The 8th annual Nonappropriated Fund Employee of the Year Awards ceremony will be held April 2, at Top of the Bay, 2 p.m.

The four categories to be recognized include administrative, trades and crafts, paraprofessional and supervisory.

All Aberdeen Proving Ground personnel are invited to attend.

For more information, call Jean Futty, 410-278-8993.

ACS hosts Waiting Families Support Group

Army Community Service aspects of is sponsoring Waiting Families
Support Group for family wisitors 24 members whose sponsors are on extended temporary duty or on an unaccompanied tour stateside or overseas. The support group will meet the fourth aspects of The dispersion of the dis

Monday of every month from 7 to 8 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 2754, Rodman Road.

The next meeting is April

To arrange for child-care, call in advance, space is limited

For more information, call Cheryl Harris, relocation assistant, at 410-278-7474.

ROTC celebrates anniversary

On April 18, the Howard University Army ROTC Program will commemorate its 85th anniversary and annual military ball at the Hilton Hotel in Silver Springs, Md. The theme "Commemorating the Past, Present, and Future" promises to be an evening of fun, reflection and the coming together of various generations who have served, are currently serving or preparing to serve.

For more information, call Maj. Timothy F. Johnson, Ph.D., at 202-806-6785 or e-mail tfjohnson@howard.edu.

APG Telephone Directory update

The Directorate of Information Management is currently validating the Garrison and Tenant information in the Aberdeen Proving Ground Telephone Directory.

The purpose of this validation is to ensure that the Emergency Response System (911) has electronic access to accurate information.

accurate information.

DOIM representatives will be calling individual numbers to verify that the name, building, floor, and room number on record for the circuit are correct. The Caller ID feature on telephones will display "APG TELE MGMT" for these authorized information requests. For more information, call Janet Brown, 410-306-1315.

Vietnam Veterans present "Moving Wall" memorial in April

The Vietnam Veterans of America, Harford County Chapter 588, and Harford Community College will present the American Veterans Traveling Tribute known as the "Moving Wall," April 17 to 20 at Harford Community College.

The "wall" is a four-fifths scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The four-day event includes educational displays, locator computers for those wishing to find the name of a friend or relative on the wall, counseling services, a bronze replica of the Vietnam Women's Memorial and a 40-foot POW/MIA flag.

A service remembering Harford County service members lost during Vietnam will take place April 19, 1 p.m. The ceremony includes guest speakers who will provide insight on the historical aspects of the Vietnam War.

The display will be open for visitors 24 hours a day while at HCC. For more information, contact Norman Boskind, chairman, Harford County Veterans Commission, at 410-893-0337.

Community Notes

FRIDAY MARCH 28 BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit Havre de Grace High School Athletic Boosters will be held at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street. Bingo starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets cost \$10 and are available by calling Sandy Hash, 410-939-7174, or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332.

SATURDAY MARCH 29 USO SHOWTO HONOR THE MILITARY

The Junior Girls Unit of the **Dublin-Darlington VFW Post** 10146 is hosting a USO show to honor all past and present military to raise funds for Operation USO Care Package. The VFW is located at 3440 Conowingo Road (on Rt. 1 near Rt. 136) in Street.

The first show and buffet dinner at 2 p.m., specifically for active-duty military and their family members, is free of charge. The second show and buffet dinner at 4 p.m. will be open to the general public at a cost of \$10 per person.

Performers include the local classic and contemporary jazz band Defractions, the North Harford High School Madrigals, and local vocal artists, performing several renditions of patriotic and pop music. In addition, the VFW Junior Girls Unit will perform several patriotic skits and songs. A karaoke machine is available for anyone else wanting to perform a selection.

To reserve a seat, call 410-457-5461.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 2 DAV BEL AIR CHAPTER 30 MEETING MOVES TO NEW LOCATION

The Disabled American Veterans Bel Air Chapter 30 will hold meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at a new location, the American Legion Harford Post #39 upper hall, 500 Conowingo Road, Bel Air.

The new location offers plenty of parking and a large hall with refreshments (buy your own) downstairs.

For information and transportation, call 410-838-8325 or 410-879-0861.

FRIDAY APRIL 4 BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo will be held at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, 21

North Rogers Street. Doors open at 6 p.m. and bingo begins at 7 p.m. There will be 20 games, door prizes and raffles. Refreshments will be sold. Proceeds will benefit Parent Child Care Association of APG/EA Child Development Center. Tickets cost \$10.

For tickets and information call Nancy Hofman, 410-569-9126 or Leeann Domanico, 410-836-5618.

BASKET BINGO

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Edgewood Area Child Development Center will hold Basket Bingo at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, 21 North Rogers Street, at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and include 20 games of bingo, door prizes and raffles. Refreshments will be sold; proceeds will benefit Parent Child Care Association of the APG/EA Child Development Center. For information or tickets, call Nancy Hofmann, 410-569-9126 or Leeann Domanico, 410-836-5618.

COUNTRY HOE DOWN

The Harford County Country/Western Dance Association, a non-profit organization, sponsors country western dancing the first Friday of the month at the American Legion located on Parke Street in Aberdeen. Dancing is held from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Cost of admission is \$8; cash bar and no lessons.

For more information, call 410-272-8318.

SATURDAY APRIL 5 CAREGIVER CONFERENCE

The Harford County Office on Aging and the Geriatric Assistance and Information Network will hold the Sixth Annual Conference for Caregivers, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the McFaul Activities Center, 525 W. MacPhail Road, Bel Air. This year's theme is "Caring For Those Who Care: A Conference for Caregivers."

The purpose is to provide helpful information, resources and encouragement to a growing segment of the community.

The Harford County Geriatric Assistance and Information Network, a coalition of 114 organizations, businesses and agencies committed to serving Harford County's senior population, is sponsoring the conference.

Jamie Costello, Channel 2/ABC News, will speak on the topic, "Share the Caring" as the keynote speaker.

Movies

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$3, CHILDREN \$1.50, building 3245 Aberdeen Boulevard



DARK BLUE

Friday, March 28, 7 p.m. Saturday, March 29, 9 p.m. Starring: Kurt Russell, Scott Speedman

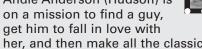
Set in the Los Angeles Police Department in April 1991, Dark Blue is a dramatic

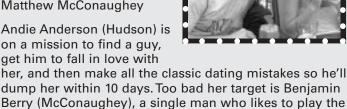
thriller that takes place just days before the acquittal of four white officers in the beating of black motorist Rodney King and the subsequent L.A. riots. Veteran officer Eldon Perry and rookie officer Bobby Keough of the elite Special Investigations Squad investigate a high-profile quadruple homicide. Officer Perry is feared on the streets and Officer Keough soon learns that cops aren't above the law, but sometimes they operate outside it. (Rated R)

HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS (FREE ADMISSION)

Saturday, March 29, 7 p.m. Starring: Kate Hudson, Matthew McConaughey

Andie Anderson (Hudson) is on a mission to find a guy,





field. Berry makes a bet with his boss that he can stay in

LIBRARY OMMS

a relationship for more than 10 days. (PG-13)

The Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School Library (formerly the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools) new operating hours are:

Monday through Wednesday

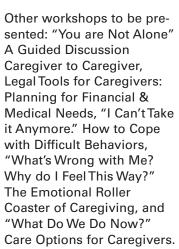
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday Noon to 8:45 p.m.

Friday

Noon to 4:30 p.m.

The library is located in the basement of building 3071. For more information, call 410-278-4991.



Lunch will be provided.

This conference is free to the general public. Registration forms can be obtained by calling the Harford County Office on Aging Outreach Department at 410-638-3025. Call 410-676-0997 to reserve adult day services.



Remembering Harford Veterans

Havre de Grace vet masters art of reunions



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSN Korean War veteran John Noble Mentzer relaxes in his Havre de Grace home. Beside him are two of the many ducks he has carved, his hobby

Yvonne Johnson APG News

John Noble Mentzer didn't know when he helped establish the Korean War Veterans Association of Havre de Grace in 1993 that it would turn into 'such a big deal."

Today the association boasts 162 members and is celebrating its fifth reunion on July 26 at the American Legion Post 47 in Havre de

The sixth of seven siblings, Mentzer joined the Navy in 1948 for four years. Due to the draw down he was discharged after two, then was drafted for the Korean War in 1952.

"I received a letter from President Harry Truman saying my services were required," Mentzer said.

After basic training at Roberts, Calif., Mentzer headed straight to Korea, arriving in June 1952.

He was assigned to the 2nd Infantry, 23rd Regiment, 2nd Battalion.

"Up front," Mentzer said.

He stayed in the general area of Baldy Hill near the demilitarized zone then moved on to guard the prisoner of war camp at Koje-Do.

He said the best part about Korea was running into his childhood friends Kenower Coakley and Andrew Fadley at Baldy Hill.

"It was the first time I'd seen them in years," Mentzer

He refers to Korea as a just war, and said "going into combat was one of the greatest things to happen to me for the love of my country."

"It's a feeling of great pride to serve," Mentzer said. "I wouldn't want to do it again and wouldn't wish it on anyone, but I would do it again to spare my children."

He said he also supports the president's decision to launch the war on Iraq.

"If we didn't go in, we would always be faced with terrorism. We should be proud of our troops over there," he

Although Korea left him with bittersweet memories, Mentzer said he remembers with fondness his arrival and departure.

arrived. An Army band was playing the song, "If I knew you were coming I'd have baked a cake." When we left, they were playing, "Been good to know you,"" he said.

The poverty he witnessed, however will always stay with him, he said.

"I'll never forget the destruction of the towns and villages," Mentzer said. "Poverty was rampant and the country was devastated. I'll never forget those children."

After Korea, Mentzer went to work at APG where he retired in 1983 as the chief of policy and compliance for the Procurement Division.

His passion today is carving ducks, which he took up in

"It started as stress relief and turned into a labor of love," he said, adding that he carves them as gifts for family and friends.

He remains proud of the way the KWVA has flourished since its inception, which was helped along by the government initiated three-year commemoration period from 2000

"We were very happy with

"I'll never forget when we the commemoration," Mentzer said. "It brought attention back to the forgotten ones."

> We had no idea it would get this big," he added. "As the years went on, we were overwhelmed with the fact that so many associated with Havre de Grace had served their country the way they did."

Membership has grown from eight to 162 members from as far away as Texas, California and Connecticut, he

"They are from Havre de Grace or their spouse is from the area," Mentzer said.

Mentzer said his personal philosophy is "God, Country and Family."

"Honor our country, pay respect to God our savior, and keep family traditions high," Mentzer said.

Mentzer married his nextdoor neighbor and childhood sweetheart, Dorothy Jones. With two grown children, four grand children and two greatgrandchildren, the couple celebrates their 54th anniversary in June.



Photo courtesy of J. NOBLE MENTZER John Noble Mentzer, right, poses with his friend, Victor Berdwin, in front of their unit headquarters at the Koje-Do, Korea prisoner of war camp in

POW training keeps MDARNG prepared

Story and photo by

Yvonne Johnson APG News

The 115th Military Police Battalion, a Maryland Army National Guard unit from Salisbury, held a Prisoner of War training exercise, March 14 in preparation for possible deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The battalion, led by Lt. Col. Ronald Chew, has been on APG since Feb. 16 and is a mixture of military police officers, engineers and

The exercise included a command post processing site and tactical operations center, a medical holding center and separate compounds for enlisted and officer detainees.

1st Lt. Charles Leas, command public affairs officer, said the exercise, known as Operation Brown Patch, was intended to test the unit's processing skills.

"We are evaluating how a headquarters com-

pany runs a POW camp and related tasks," Leas said.

The camp, set up outside the command post, with MPs from other units acting as POWs, consisted of barbed-wire enclosures and signs designating officer and enlisted holding areas.

"From here, they are assigned Interment Serial Numbers before being sent wherever higher headquarters dictates," Leas said.

He added that the unit could be called on to process military POWs, refugees or civilian internees.

"Civilians are subject to different controls and policies outside the Geneva Convention,"

During the five-day exercise, the participating units took on role-playing scenarios to further test each other's skills.

The evaluators included Army reservists from the 78th Infantry Division, Fort Dix, N.J.



"Prisoners of war" gather in a holding area designated for noncommissioned officers during the five-day POW Training Exercise conducted by the Maryland Army National Guard's 115th Military Police Battalion, March 14. Military police volunteers played the role of POWs during Operation Brown Patch, the battalion's self-evaluation of tactical procedures.

Korea 50 years ago

Patrol foils communist Pork Chop Hill attack

Jim Caldwell TRADOC Service

March 6 to 12

March 6. 1953 — Georgi M. Malenkov, Politburo member, is announced as Josef Stalin's successor. The late Soviet Premier died yesterday after a brain hemorrhage March 1.

On the I Corps front in western Korea, the Chinese send two fruitless companysized attacks against the Republic of Korea 1st Infantry Division. In the evening, a combat patrol from the 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division catch about a platoon of Chinese heading toward Pork Chop Hill. The resulting skirmish interferes with the enemy's attack plans. There are no casualties reported among the GIs, and there's no assault on Pork Chop that night. Still, Pork Chop Hill is pounded with about 8,000 artillery and mortar rounds throughout the night.

March 8 — A MiG-15 flown to the Danish island of Bornholm March 5 by a defecting Polish air force pilot is shipped to Copenhagen today. The pilot asked Denmark for political asylum. It is the first intact MiG-15 to fall into the West's hands.

Poland also seizes six Danish fishing vessels and 23 crewmen today as a sign of its displeasure. The boats and men will be released March

March 11 — The U.N. General Assembly votes 55-5 to approve efforts to rejuvenate the Korean economy. The Soviet bloc casts all the negative votes. The General Assembly then defeats a Soviet motion to disband the Committee U.N. for Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea 54-5.

Korea reported by former the 1st Marines. Eighth Army commander, now retired, Gen. James A. Van Fleet during testimony to the committee.

March 13 by flying his 127th combat mission and downing his 12th MiG-15. He is the leading ace in jet fighter war-

On the Korean front, the Chinese break a 10-day lull in I Corps' western zone on March 14. About a battalion of communists slips through concertina wire and makes it through a minefield to the trenches on Hill 355, held by soldiers of the 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. Hill 355, a little over three miles southwest of the Nori Hill complex, is also known as Little Gibraltar. The Chinese overrun one platoon, but the other platoons stop them and hold until reinforcements arrive. During the fighting, Pvt. Courtney L. Stanley, 19, a black soldier from Mansfield, La., leaves his bunker to protect a wounded lieutenant colonel lying in front of it. He kills eight communists and drives off another eight to save the officer's life. It is Stanley's first combat experience.

When the enemy withdraws, 2nd ID artillery fires on their route of retreat. The fighting costs the regiment around 100 casualties. The Chinese are estimated to have lost more than 400 men between the fighting on the hill and the artillery.

On March 18, Adlai Stevenson, Democrat presidential nominee in 1952, ends a five-day visit to Korea. He says he is impressed "with the infinite difficulties that this cruel war presents." He praises the South Korean people for persevering through the war.

That night two Chinese platoons strike at the line held by March 12 — The Senate the 1st Marine Division. The Armed Services Committee communists overrun an out- the communists harass the sets up a five-member sub- post manned by South Marines by hitting Bunker Hill committee to investigate Koreans belonging to an ROK ammunition shortages in marine regiment attached to

> On March 19 two enemy companies attack positions held by the 5th Marines. After several hours of bitter, deadly

March 13 to 19 — Col. Royal fighting the Chinese are driven N. Baker, 34, McKinney, off. The marines then conduct Texas, ends his Korea tour their own raid against enemy positions.

> Maj. Gen. James C. Fry, 2nd ID commander, presents the Silver Star to Stanley on March 19, and recommends the soldier be awarded a higher decoration.

March 18 — The Defense Department announces that the total American casualties in Korea have risen to 131,244, including 23,209 dead.

March 20 to 26 — Chinese forces continue their attacks against outposts held by American and allied units. There is fierce fighting in the eastern end of the I Corps

The enemy begins firing artillery around the clock on 7th ID positions in the Old Baldy-Pork Chop region March 20. Troops await an attack. Two Chinese deserters confirm that the Reds appear to be preparing for an attack.

The division's 31st Infantry Regiment is holding the line. The 2nd Battalion is on the left of Old Baldy, the 3rd Battalion is on Pork Chop Hill. Between them, holding part of Old Baldy, is the attached Colombian Battalion.

Farther west, on March 21, two Chinese companies attack a 2nd ID patrol near the Hook. The GIs call in reinforcements and artillery. The reinforcements help fight off the Chinese until early March 22, when the enemy withdraws.

That night, after 1,700 mortar and artillery rounds land on Hedy and Bunker Hills, four miles east of Panmunjom, two Chinese companies attack Marines of the 1st Marine Division's 1st Regiment. The Marines have to fight the enemy hand-to-hand before driving them from the hill.

For the next several nights, outposts.

After dark on March 23, the expected attack comes against 7th ID troops. A company hits Old Baldy, and two companies attack the 3rd Battalion on Pork Chop.

Enemy artillery catches the Colombians rotating their troops on Old Baldy. When the artillery lifts, Chinese soldiers make it into the Colombians' trenches. A company is sent to reinforce the Colombians at 9:30 p.m., but it is stopped by enemy artillery and mortar fire. When the company gets pinned down, the Reds open up with rifles, automatic weapons and grenades.

The company finally makes it to Old Baldy at 2 a.m., March 24. The first bunkers the soldiers come to are not heavily defended and the company easily rids them of enemy soldiers. But the Americans are stopped by the main Chinese force and they withdraw.

On Bunker Hill, the GIs hold off the enemy until their ammo gets low. The company pulls back from the crest and waits for ammunition to be brought up. While the troops wait, Marine artillery fires shells with proximity fuses on the enemy.

Then the company is ordered to help another company take Hill 200, a mile southeast, which has also been attacked.

After daylight, another company is sent to retake Pork Chop. It is held up by proximity-fuse enemy artillery. When they do reach the crest, they report back that there are many dead and wounded, and that nearly every bunker is destroyed and burning.

Beginning on March 24 and continuing into March 26, soldiers supported by tanks attempt to regain Old Baldy. During the night on March 26, tactical fighters slam enemy positions.

The Chinese leave Old Baldy during the air strikes. That gives Colombian soldiers, who were hiding in damaged bunkers, their chance to make it back to the Main Line of Resistance.

The Marines, too, have been fighting their skirmishes all week. Enemy forces have not been as large as those the soldiers have been engaging — until March 26.

A full Chinese regiment hits three outposts of the 5th Marine Regiment about 10 miles northeast of Panmunjom. Vegas and Reno fall quickly, with surviving Marines falling back toward the MLR and setting up blocking positions.

A company from the 2nd Battalion is sent to reinforce the third outpost, Carson, where Marines are fighting for their lives. As the company starts up Carson, it is stopped by enemy artillery and small arms. Marines take cover and engage the enemy with small

Casualties are heavy during the ensuing four-hour firefight. Navy Corpsman Francis C. Hammond, 21, Alexandria, Va., spends the time running

Air Force, Navy and Marine through the bullets, treating wounded Marines and taking them to the bottom of the hill.

> The company is given the word to pull back. The Marines are followed down the hill by rifle fire from the Chinese. Hammond sees a Marine fall and starts back up the hill for him.

> Hammond is killed when a mortar shell lands right in front of him.

> His posthumous Medal of Honor is presented to his wife, Phyllis, by Secretary of the Navy Robert B. Anderson Dec. 29, 1953.

> On March 24, Britain accepts a Soviet offer - with U.S. and French approval - to discuss ways to avoid further air incidences over Germany.

> March 25 — The Defense Department reports that as of Dec. 20, American casualties in Korea numbered 23, 298 dead, and 108, 226 wounded. (Editor's note: Jim Caldwell writes for the TRADOC News Service. Sources are Facts on File, 1953; Truce Tent and Fighting Front by Walter G. Hermes, Office of the Chief of Military History; and Korean War Heroes by Edward F. Murphy, Presidio Press, 1992.)

Morale, Recreation & Welfare

SCHOOL LIAISON

THE MARYLAND SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

The Maryland School Performance Assessment Program is out, replaced by a new assessment test in compliance with President Bush's 'No Child Left Behind' federal mandate that requires all states to test students in reading, math and science.

Maryland's new test, called the Maryland School Assessment, will be phased in over three years starting March 2003 for students in grades three, five, and eight to be tested in reading and math, and tenth graders to be tested in reading.

In 2004, students in grades four, six, and seven will be tested in reading and math, and in 2005, science tests will be phased in.

The new assessment test is based on multiple-choice and short answer questions and will measure school performance as well as individual student progress.

Students work independently when taking the test.

Test results will reflect how well the student does in math and reading compared to other students in Maryland and across the nation, and how well the student mastered the content the state believes all students should know.

For more information, contact a local school or visit the Maryland State Department of Education's Web site,

www.marylandpublicschools.org, or call 888-246-0016 or 410-767-0600.

GETTING HOMEWORK HELP

There are several ways-besides parents or friends-students can get help with their homework free of charge.

One involves the new Homework 411 hour-long show televised by Harford Cable Network on Comcast Cable (Channel 3) and Clearview Cable (Channel 7) every Tuesday and Thursday at 4 p.m. The show features Harford County Public School teachers and students providing lessons, trivia, helpful hints on topics of interest, and help with homework to students who call in live. The show is geared to elementary and middle school aged students. Callers can win prizes. For more information, call Nancy Spence at 410-588-5331.

The second is an on-line system through www.tutor.com, which is provided by the Maryland Public Library System. The service is geared to students grades four through 12.

The third is through the Harford County Public Library, which provides help from librarians on duty. The service is available from 1 to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, by calling 410-638-3151, or going online at

www.harf.lib.md.us/hcpl.asknow/index.htm. For more information, call Irmgarde Brown at 410-273-5600, ext. 274.

LIBRARY BOOK CORNER

Approaching the end of Women's History Month, everyone should remember that the contributions of women to our nation's history are not limited to a single month. The APG libraries have materials depicting these contributions, which may be checked-out 12 months a year.



All the Daring of the Soldier: women of the Civil War armies, by Elizabeth D. Leonard

American Women and World War II by Doris Weatherford

No Small Courage: a history of women in the United States, edited by Nancy Cott



Freedom's Daughters: the unsung heroines of the Civil Rights Movement from 1830 to 1970, by Lynne Olson

complete book on the world's greatest female athletes, by Joe Layden

Women in Sports: the



Cathy Williams: from slave to female Buffalo Soldier, by Phillip Thomas Tucker



Operating hours of the Aberdeen Area Library, building 3320, are Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m., and Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The Edgewood Area library is open Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. For information, call 410-436-3589.

To receive a complete listing of the library's new materials via e-mail and also reserve items electronically, call the library at 410-278-3417.

BOWLING STANDINGS

Tuesday Intramurals Week of March 11

Men's high series scratch, Brandon Dusick, 679 Steve Irwin, 554 Men's high series handicap Brandon Dusick, 727 Ron Ramirez, 716 Men's high game scratch Brandon Dusick, 244 Robert Carpenter, 214 Men's high game handicap Jeffery Bailey, 275 Brandon Dusick, 260 Women's high series scratch Nicole Washington, 395 Rachel Carlisle, 349 Women's high series handicap Rachel Carlisle, 651 Michelle Williams, 634 Women's high game scratch Nicole Washington, 144 Rachel Carlisle, 130 Women's high game handicap Rachel Carlisle, 240 Nicole Washington, 235

Wednesday Night Mixed

March 5

Men's high series scratch Don Donnelly, 550 Stuart Thacker, 545 Men's high series handicap Terrance Harris, 725 Tim Anderson, 710 Men's high game scratch Don Donnelly, 211 Stuart Thacker/Tom Curtis, Men's high game handicap Tim Anderson, 282 Stuart Thacker, 280 Women's high series scratch Annie Rosario, 516 Barbara Thibault, 504 Women's high series handicap Kathy Anderson, 705 Ann Thacker, 701 Women's high game scratch Annie Rosario, 195 Kathy Anderson, 187 Women's high game

handicap Ann Thacker, 301 Renee Johnson, 271

Thursday National Guard Mixed

Week of March 27

Men's high series scratch Bill Morton, 527 Phillip Murphy, 502 Men's high series handicap Phillip Murphy, 748 Bill Morton/Cal Adams, 730 Men's high game scratch Bill Morton, 203 Phillip Murphy, 192 Men's high game handicap Frank Mitchell, 286 Myron Cole, 285 Women's high series scratch Fay Christy, 514 Barbara Thibault, 498 Women's high series handicap Lucy Montanez, 816 Mary Jo Smith, 727 Women's high game scratch Fay Christy, 191 Pamela Murphy, 188 Women's high game handicap Lucy Montanez, 293 Shelly Burmeister/Lynn Sims,

Thursday Lunch League

Week of March 13

Men's high series scratch Terry Pollard, 357 Terry Bonine, 350 Men's high series handicap Tim Dowell, 453 Jeff Swap, 443 Men's high game scratch Terry Bonine, 211 John Brown, 203 Men's high game handicap John Brown, 243 Raymond Brown, 234 Women's high series scratch Betty Taylor, 352 Dawn Gordner, 315 Women's high series handicap Ronda Taylor, 436 Jane Fortes, 413 Women's high game scratch

Dawn Gordner, 189 Betty Taylor, 183 Women's high game handicap

Jane Fortes, 234 Ronda Taylor, 222

Friday Night Mixed

Week of March 14 Men's high series scratch Richard Trimble, 655 Dennis Williams, 633 Men's high series handicap Virgil Mills, 842 Johnny Jones, 734 Men's high game scratch Richard Trimble, 258 Virgi Mills, 252 Men's high game handicap Virgil Mills, 295 Eddie Sabina, 282 Women's high series scratch Tasha Taylor, 532 Lucy Montanez, 529 Women's high series handicap Tasha Taylor, 771 Lucy Montanez, 697 Women's high game scratch Tasha Taylor, 223 Lucy Montanez, 181 Women's high game handicap Ellen Hopkins,270 Christine Wachter, 270

Saturday Youth League (Upcoming Stars)

Week of March 8 Boy's high series scratch Chance Gosnell, 137 Boy's high series handicap Chance Gosnell, 575 Boy's high game scratch Chance Gosnell, 57 Boy's high game handicap Chance Gosnell, 203 Girl's high series scratch Elizabeth Kempton, 163 Girl's high series handicap Elizabeth Kempton, 647 Natelie Hanlon, 583 Girl's high game scratch Elizabeth Kempton, 67 Girl's high game handicap Elizabeth Kempton, 222

Saturday Youth Rising Stars Week March 8

Boy's high series scratch

Bobby Davis, 324 Dauvon Mccormick, 309 Boy's high series handicap Bobby Davis, 705 Eric White, 656 Boy's high game scratch Johnathan Pace, 128 Bobby Davis, 122 Boy's high game handicap John Keegan, 255 Johnathan Pace, 249 Girl's high series scratch Jessell Cons, 313 Magan Pace, 311 Girl's high series handicap Amanda Anderson, 663 Jessell Cons, 654 Girl's high game scratch Jessell Cons, 113 Magan Pace, 112 Girl's high game handicap Jessell Cons, 238 Amanda Anderson, 230

Saturday Youth League - Shooting Stars

Week of March 8 Boy's high series scratch Curtis Swauger, 520 Chad Milton, 488 Boy's high series handicap Chad Milton, 759 Curtis Swauger, 752 Boy's high game scratch Curtis Swauger, 209 Corey Yonce, 194 Boy's high game handicap Curtis Swauger, 306 Chad Milton, 303 Girl's high series scratch Heather Miller, 341 Girl's high series handicap Ashley Taylor, 686 Heather Miller, 647 Girl's high game scratch Heather Miller, 138 Girl's high game handicap Ashley Taylor, 265 Heather Miller, 239 (Editor's note: See

www.apgnews.apg.army.mil for standings through March

Joining the boat club

The Spesutie Island Boating Activity is accepting son. Membership is open to active duty military, full time Army National Guard, retired military, APG DoD/Nonappropriated Fund civilian lot space is \$8 per foot employees, retired APG DA civilians, and long term contractors with government ID

Membership requirements include performance of eight hours of work and standing assigned security watches. Members must provide proof of identification, boat registration and liability insurance. Costs are:

· moored boat with parkapplications for the 2003 sea- ing lot space for trailer is \$19 per foot

• moored boat (only) is \$11 per foot

• boat on trailer in parking

• ramp access (only) is \$7.50 per foot Applications can be picked up at the SIBA Club house,

Recreation. Opening for the season on April 12, this is a designated

building 36 or at Outdoor

word day for members. For more information, call 410-278-4124.

CYS requests survey completion

Pat Palazzi

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Child and Youth Services Division must be proactive in determining in advance how it can support soldiers and families during times of mobilization/deployment and other emergency situations.

By filling out the survey and returning it, participants will be helping CYS to be ready to support the needs of

the APG community when duty calls.

The time and effort spent filling out this survey will have a direct impact on CYS' ability to provide viable support services for families, when and if the need occurs.

Surveys can be picked up at the PX, commissary and Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic or printed from the APG News Web

www.apgnews.apg.army.mil.

Activities

Methods of registration

Registering for any MWR event can be accomplished by visiting the specific facility for the event, mailing in a registration form found in an MWR Program Brochure, visiting the Leisure Travel Office, building 3326, or online at www.apgmwr.com.

Beginner dog obedience

Gain the knowledge and skills needed to assume better control of the family dog in a beginner dog obedience class starting

After learning the hands-on training techniques and practicing them at home, participants will be equipped to teach their dog to respond to commands in a positive way.

Classes will be held in the Russell Gym from 6:30 to 7:30

p.m. and cost \$60. Register by April 1.

For more information, call Charles Heinsohn at 410-278-3868 or e-mail charles.heinsohn@usag.apg.army.mil

Introduction to horseshoe pitching

This course teaches the fundamentals of pitching horseshoes, scoring and rules for tournament play. Course maintenance will also be covered along with the equipment needed to carry it out. A tournament will be conducted at the conclusion of the classes, which start on April 5 at Hoyle Gym, 10 to 11 a.m. Register by April 3. For more information, call Charles Heinsohn at 410-278-3868 or e-mail charles.heinsohn@usag.apg.army.mil.

Pictorial tour of the Cosmos

Get a closer look on the emerging picture of the violent dynamic universe. This tour will include black holes and exploding stars, and use instruments to paint a picture of violent rays to radio waves. Class will be held on April 7 in Russell Gym from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$15 for families. Register by April 3.

For more information call Charles Heinsohn at 410-278-3868 or e-mail charles.heinsohn@usag.apg.army.mil

Opening day scramble

Opening Day Scramble features a Four player Captain's Choice scramble. Teams may enter as a team or individuals will be paired into foursomes. Lunch and prizes will be presented after the tournament. The event will be held April 5 with a 9 a.m. shotgun start at Ruggles Golf Course and April 13 with a 1 p.m. shotgun start at Exton Golf Course. Register by April 1 for Ruggles, and April 10 for Exton. For more information, call Tom at 410-278-4794 or e-mail tom.green@usag.apg.army.mil.

Spring summer fashion show

V & T Collection and APG MWR will present a Spring and Summer Collections Fashion Show April 12 at the AA Recreation Center, 2 to 4 p.m. A lite fare and cash bar will be available. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Register by April 4. For more information, call Earlene Allen at 410-278-3854 or e-mail earlene.allen@usag.apg.army.mil.

Chapel notes

Protestant Lenten devotionals

The APG Post Chapel will hold Protestant Lenten Devotionals in the Social at noon, each Wednesday through April 9. The devotionals will be followed by a light lunch ending at 12:45 p.m. Call 410-278-4333 for lunch reservations two days prior to each day of attendance.

Holy Week Devotionals will be held at noon from April 21 to 23 at the Post Chapel. The devotionals will be followed by a light lunch ending at 12:45 p.m. Call 410-278-4333 for lunch reservations two days prior to each day of attendance.

Contemporary worship service

A new, contemporary

From front page

percent of all users on APG

are downloading and using

KAZAA, users reach out from

inside, through the network to

obtain a song from you,"

Huntley said. "Once that con-

nection is established and the

file is within our network, they

In addition, many of those

"When discovered, the only

types of sites carry hidden

files that can further damage a

remedy is to terminate the

connection and rebuild the PC

from scratch," Huntley said,

adding that this results in lost

time for the user and diverts

DOIM attention from support-

ing other requirements and

the popular chain-styled let-

ters that instruct the reader to

'forward to all of your

friends,' stress the system,"

"If you do it enough, it ulti-

In addition, e-mails, such as

other customers.

Huntley said.

system when downloaded.

[potential hackers]

access to the network."

prohibited material.

"With

Huntley said that five to 10

programs

worship service will be held 2 to 3:30 p.m. each Sunday at the Edgewood Area Chapel, building E-4620.

Musicians and singers are welcome. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call Chaplain Shawn E. McCammon, 410-436-8695

Good News Bears Starts May 8

Good News Bears is a Christian discipleship program for children ages 3 to 11 full of fun, stories, and lots of activities. "Bears" (children) will have opportunities to earn a Tshirt and badges by completing various requirements.

The group meets at 6:30 p.m. at Skipper's Point in Edgewood.

To pre-register, call Julie McCammon at 410-569-6504.

the sender wants. As you for-

ward, you are participating. Computer "The point is, the country is

at war," Huntley added. "We need to minimize the amount we send so we can have the resources we need to maintain our systems. Wartime should mean that we use the minimum communications necessary."

Huntley stated that the DOIM would start treating incidents more seriously.

For a recent finding of music downloads on a government computer, Huntley said he gave instructions to terminate the connection and rebuild, but to not reinstall until the employee's director personally requests it.

"Nor will we rebuild on an urgent basis," Huntley said.

He advised that personnel decrease the flow of unnecessary e-mails through the server and use common sense when invited to download.

"Never download programs or alter the desktop on a government PC," he said. "When in doubt, always seek advice from your supervisor or the Help Desk. If users require additional software, request that software through proper channels rather than attemptmately overwhelms servers ing to download or install it and networks, which is what yourself."

APG Catholic Community Lenten schedule

Aberdeen Area Chapel

April 2, 7 p.m.

Stations of the

April 5, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Confirmation retreat April 9, 7 p.m. Stations of the Cross April 13, 8:30 a.m. Palm Sunday mass April 16, 7 p.m. Ecumenical Tenebrae service *17*, 11:45 April a.m. Thursday Holy mass April *18*, 11:45 a.m.

Good Friday ser-

April 20, 8:30 a.m.

Sunday

vice

Easter

mass

Area Chapel March 20, 7 p.m. Stations of the cross March 27, 7 p.m. Stations of the April 3, 7 p.m. Stations of the cross April 10, 7 p.m. Stations of the cross April *13*, 10:45 a.m. Palm Sunday mass April 15, 7 p.m. Ecumenical Tenebrae service April 17, 7 p.m. Holy Thursday mass *18*, 11:45 April a.m. Good Friday mass April 19 Easter vigil, 7 p.m.

April 20, 10:45

Sunday

Edgewood

Hotline

a.m.

Easter

mass

From front page

"We may often refer callers to the nstallation because installation ACS staff have local resource telephone numbers, and more detailed information," Lovisone

In addition to local and Army-level assistance via telephone, family members can find answers to many routine questions about family readiness, Army Community Service, and deployment support resources online at the ACS Web site, www.goacs.org, and at the Army Family Liaison Office Web site, www.aflo.org.

"We anticipate a high volume of calls, so we strongly urge people to use those Web sites as a first stop," Lovisone said.

Recognizing that not all households have Internet connectivity, Lovisone suggested families use computers at installation ACS centers or at on-post or local civilian libraries.

LEAVE DONATION

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and Transfer Program (within agency); and

OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the **Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (out**side agency). Employees leaving the program should contact Ronda McKinney, 410-278-8988, to complete a termination form.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

William G. Argiropoulos Mary A Banaszak Fay Walker Banker (hip replacement) Mildred T. Becker (surgery) Marian Bellis (fracture of left tibia) Gretchen E. Blethen Robert J. Boonstoppel (surgery) **Bonnie Bromley** (liver transplant) Daniel Brown (father has emphysema) Tammy Budkey Jane E. Calahan (surgery) Patricia D. Choate Nancy Coleman-Jones (surgery) Tracy H Coliano-Hirsch (maternity) Geraldine S. Cragg Dawn M. Crouse (surgery) Jessica L. Dang (maternity) Rene de Pontbriand Tricia Lin Dietz Fred Dill Joseph R. Dugan Messina Enderlein Wayne Erb (wife is ill) Patty Gibson Edgar W. Greer

Michael L. Hitchcock (surgery) Fern L. Hitchcock (surgery) Melanie A. Hoffman (parasinusitis, fibromyalgia condi-Stephen Howard (bone marrow transplant) Theresa L. Hutchins Evelyn K. Johnson (surgery) Marlin Julian (heart surgery) (surgery on leg) Jennifer Keetley (maternity) Beverly King (caring for husband) William Klein Anita L Koller (care for husband) L. Lambert Angela R. Little (neck and shoulder injury) William B. McLean (kidney failure) Michelle Millary (taking care of father) John E. Mogan (surgery) Calvin E. Peake Cecil Pennington (surgery) Karen S Pense Mary E. Pettiway Linda M. D. Queen **Barbara Carol Remines** (surgery)

Michael Reynolds Boyd J. Richards (care of mother) Cheryl L. Roark Denise Robinson (maternity) Ricky Ross (heart attack) Allan Scarborough (back surgery) Jennifer W. Sekowski Sherry Schaffer Lena Shelton Teresa L. Shores Colvin J. Strickler II Rachel Swearingen Gale L. Thompson (surgery) Alison Tichenor (surgery) Susan J. Townsend (surgery) Sandra M. Wachter (surgery) Cecelia Walton (respiratory problems) Michelle L. Watters Beverly A. Werner (surgery) Michael R. Willard Charles Young (kidney and pancreas transplant) Ludilina O. Valarao (surgery) (brain tumor removed) Wanda L.Waldon (surgery) *Colleen Waller (care for elderly parents)

For information about donating annual leave, call Ronda McKinney at 410-278-8988 or fax 410-278-7652. (*An asterisk indicates employees working at the APG office of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory. Call Susan Goldberg, 301-394-1080, regarding ARL employees.)





Commentary: Don't let terrorists spread fear

John Davis Army News Service

Shortly after police alerted the nation that a vehicle license plate was being sought in connection with the D.C. sniper, a citizen reported it, and an arrest was made. The alleged killer was off the street.

Recently, a waitress at a Shoney's Restaurant in Georgia notified authorities of an apparent criminal discussion she overheard. Three men seemed to be planning to bomb a building in Miami. After police investigated, the bomb plot was alleged to be a hoax. In both cases, these citizens did what any civic-minded American should do. They reported a threat to the proper authorities. Such acts are our civic duty.

Not long ago my dad and I were comparing the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor with the suicide assaults on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"Something a lot of people don't remember about those days," he reflected, "is that Americans were afraid. There were rumors across the land that Japanese had landed in San Francisco, at Los Angeles, and that saboteurs and spies were everywhere. Rumors spread fear, and fear fanned more fear."

The greatest human emotion is fear, and the greatest fear is fear of the unknown. It was for that very reason that President Roosevelt reminded everyone that, "The only thing we have to fear is....fear itself."

"You can't imagine what a calming effect the president's reas-

surance had for everyone," dad said. "We were sucker punched at Pearl, but pulled together for the fight to come. We believed the situation was dangerous, but that the right people were doing their best to take care of the nation. And it wouldn't be over till

Today we too might believe the enemy appears to be everywhere. He seems capable of any number of horrific means of visiting destruction on us. We feel helpless to defend ourselves against an adversary we can neither see, nor identify, nor anticipate. We feel an unspecified dread. We don't feel safe anymore. That is just what the enemy wants us to feel.

My favorite quotation came the day after the Sept. 11 attack. A German investigator, asked to comment on the apprehension of several al Quaida terrorists in Hamburg, offered this matterof-fact observation, "Don't forget. These people are criminals. Each of these terrorists has a face, a name, and an address."

That comment, echoing President Bush's determined assurance that we will patiently but relentlessly pursue these killers anywhere they may hide, did much to reassure Americans.

But how, Americans ask, can we take part? We want to pull together, so what do we do? The answer has been here all along; we've known it intuitively, but never until now really had an immediate need in this generation to act upon it.

Working for the government, we know that loose lips sink ships. But now we know that our eyes catch spies...and the criminal killers they report to.

Each of the terrorists has a face, a name, and an address, and now they too know fear. Their leaders have abandoned them, world law enforcement is seeking them, and every day more Americans become more astute in what to watch for and report.

There are many practical hurdles to overcome, and the road

Whereas yesterday we weren't aware, today we know who to call if something just doesn't seem right. We help each other. Americans are pulling together. We watch our surroundings in ways we didn't before.

We are protecting ourselves, informing ourselves, and not let-

ting fear defeat us before we've entered the fight. No one today will turn away if a security problem seems to require a solution. We offer assistance to others and make sure someone takes action to protect us. If we see a better way, we speak up. The only thing we have to fear is fear itself. Remember that

every terrorist has a face, a name, and an address. We'll get them if we help each other. We are a quarter billion Americans whose eyes are watching in restaurants, at gas stations, in the office, and on the road.

Now the cowards who murdered our people really have something to fear.

We are out to get them.

(Editor's note: John Davis is a security specialist with the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command.)

Civilian ATLDP study recommends Civilian Advisory Board

Joe Burlas Army News Service

Creating a Civilian Advisory Board to be an advocate for today's more than 270,000+ Army civilian workers will help even the training and leader development playing field with the uniformed component of the Army, according to one finding of a recent study.

Results from the Civilian Army Training and Leader Development Panel were released March 14.

The civilian study mirrored earlier panels that examined the Army culture, and training and leader development views of the officer, warrant officer and NCO corps during the past two years. The studies were conducted as part of Army Transformation in order to shape the Army's workforce for future requirements, officials said. The civilian study was the last planned ATLDP, yet work continues to resolve issues identified from all the studies.

"We knew going in what most of the issues

were concerning civilian training and leader to respondents. The issue here is that most civildevelopment — the study just confirmed them and provided us with the necessary data to validate the need for change," said Maureen Viall, Civilian ATLDP study director.

Through the use of online surveys, focus groups and one-on-one interviews with Army civilians, garrison commanders, general officers and Senior Executive Service members, the panel got feedback from about 40,000 respondents.

Viall said the study confirmed that Army civilians were aware that the Army is undergoing profound change as it transforms into the future Objective Force and that they didn't want to be left behind. What that means, she said, is that the future civilian workforce needs to be multi-skilled, multi-faceted - not tied down to doing just one job under a civil service position classification system that is more than 50 years old.

Most general officer and SES respondents agreed that the current education system is inadequate to develop civilian leaders capable of managing the change Transformation requires.

The study confirmed there are no sequential civilian leader development plans like soldiers have. In fact, only 45 of 444 employees in study focus groups could name a specific leader development course offered to civilians — 223 of the group were unaware of any core leader development courses. However, 80 percent of the respondents who had attended a leader development course indicated such courses were beneficial.

Another issue from the study is the failure of many civilian supervisors and managers to attend required leader development courses. Reasons for failure to attend include low command priority for civilian training, lack of time due to mission requirements, lack of money and no consequences for failing to attend mandatory courses or any meaningful recognition for

Training opportunities, whether for professional or leader development, vary widely from major command to major command, according

ian training is currently funded out of each MACOM budget. A few exceptions to that rule include centrally funded leadership training at the Center for Army Leadership and the Army Management Staff College.

"It is a case of the haves versus the have nots," Viall said. "There are generally more training opportunities in better funded MACOMS than in the poorer ones."

Respondents used words like "meaningful, challenging, interesting, exciting, fun and rewarding" to describe their jobs. Almost 90 percent said they plan to make the Army a career, with only 2 percent stating they planned to leave Army service before retirement. More than 70 percent said they would recommend working for the Army to others.

However, many respondents said they would like more recognition for being productive members of the Army team.

Like the earlier studies that looked at the uniformed side of the Army, the civilian study found that Army civilians' commitment to the Army is not perceived as being reciprocated by the Army; performance evaluations and counseling are inadequate; and current education and career development models are lacking.

The Army is currently considering a number of recommendations to address issues the study identified. Those recommendations include: creating a Civilian Education System that mirrors those of the NCO, Warrant and Officer Corps; placing civilian leader development responsibilities — including funding — under one Army organization; increasing formal developmental assignment, self-development and mentoring opportunities; and establishing an Army Civilian Creed.

The recommended Civilian Advisory Board would help implement other approved recommendations, with the board president acting as a civilian workforce advisor to senior Army lead-

A summary of the panel's findings is posted on the Army home page, www.army.mil.

Postal service offers tips for mail to Kuwait

Army News Service

Kuwait and nearby countries are available only to family members and close friends of deployed soldiers, officials said, due to anthrax and other terrorist threats.

Programs that allowed the general public to send mail addressed to "Any Service Member" were cancelled more than a year ago.

While these programs were popular with the public during Desert Storm and other operations, officials said security concerns and transportation constraints with military mail led to their cancellation. Web sites such as http://anyservicemember.navy.mil, and Army Knowledge Online e-mail have been suggested as alternate means to contact sol-

Family members who send regular mail need to use the soldier's full name (without rank), unit and APO address. Letters to Kuwait will normally take seven to 10 days, according to the Military Postal Service Agency. Priority parcels will normally take 10 to 15 days. Surface Air Mail, or SAM packages, will normally take about 24 days, according to MPSA officials.

Each country has customs regulations that apply to all incoming mail. These may include prohibitions on certain kinds of food or entertainment products.

Host countries mostly prohibit the entry of alcoholic beverages of any kind, narcotics, munitions, pork and

pork by-products, pornogra- bring up the PDF file. APO ZIP codes for units in phy, and material contrary to the Islamic religion.

> Letter mail is not being opened unless it appears unusually bulky, officials said, in which case it may be examined to see if it contains contraband, such as drugs. Parcel mail is being examined on a spot-check basis to determine conformity with host country customs regulations and for terrorist-type mailing.

Some military units may have additional restrictions imposed by the theater commander, such as size and weight restrictions, to ensure logistics support can handle the mail without delays. The maximum length of a package in any category is 48 inches.

Military ZIP code restrictions may change as military units move to different locations, officials said. All applicable restrictions for about 3,000 overseas military ZIP codes are entered into the U. S. Postal Service computer terminals and published in the Postal Bulletin. The general public may review details of all applicable restrictions by going to any branch post office or the USPS public page

http://www.usps.com. To access this file:

• The customer should

- click on the USPS web site. • Type "Postal Bulletin" in the search engine, this will bring up the page for the bulletins.
- Click on Bulletin. On this screen the customer will see "VIEW ISSUES."
- At "VIEW ISSUES" click current issue and this will

 Click on the PDF file and this will bring up the Postal

• At this point the customer can navigate to the Postal Bulletin page that contains the Military ZIP Code informa-

Most areas of the Middle East have been authorized Free Mail for personal correspondence being sent from the service member overseas back to the U.S. However, family members sending mail to service members in a free mail zone must still include postage. Soldiers are briefed on the Free Mail procedures, officials said, when they are deployed to a Free Mail area.

Postal service tips to help ensure timely delivery of mail

- Wrap packages securely. Liquid-filled containers
- tend to break.
- Powdered items can open during transit causing concern over what kind of substance it is. Please pack the items in sealed plastic bags.
- Contraband items are confiscated. These include alcohol, tobacco and pornography.
- Label packages properly and list all contents.
- There is a space on the customs form to declare if it is a gift or merchandise.
- When family members send items Space Available Mail, the packages might take longer.
- Families should not put the country or the base camp's city on the mail, officials said, because it might get sent through the host country's mail system.

Retirement

From front page

soldiers' Army Knowledge Online accounts, said William Hursh, a human resource specialist with Retirement Services in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G1.

DIEMS determines what retirement plan soldiers fall under. Soldiers with a DIEMS date of Sept. 8, 1980 and earlier qualify for Final Pay, which is 50 percent of their basic pay and has the largest payout, Dean said.

"Soldiers most likely to be affected negatively if their DIEMS dates are wrong are the ones getting ready to retire now or very soon," Dean said. "If in their records we have their basic active service date instead of their initial entry date, they may fall under the High 3 Plan. However, it's the more generous Final Pay plan they really qualify for."

Congress created another retirement plan Sept. 9, 1980, which is called the High 3 Plan. It is 50 percent of the average of a soldier's highest 36 months of service. If a sergeant first class with 20 years of service retired today under the Final Pay plan, he would receive \$1,591, said Hursh. However, if he retired under the High 3 plan, he would receive \$1,432 a month, he added.

There are three retirement plans soldiers could fall under. The third plan is the Redux plan, which Congress created Aug. 1, 1986. It's 40 percent of the average of a soldier's highest three earning years, and includes decreased cost of living allowances.

In October 1999 to get more individuals to stay in the military, Congress moved everyone with a DIEMS date of Aug. 1, 1986 and later back into the High 3 plan. However, at 15 years of active-duty service, those individuals who are eligible to serve at least five more years have the option to accept the Redux plan and receive a \$30,000 Career Status Bonus.

Last January 108 soldiers were given CSB bonuses, but because of wrong DIEMS dates they now owe the government \$30,000.

"Because their basic active service dates was written down as their DIEMS dates, they were offered the CSB under the Redux plan," Dean said. "However, they weren't eligible for that plan and now they have to pay back the full amount before taxes."

Only one soldier was able to pay the bonus back after Defense Finance and Accounting Service discovered the payments had been made mistakenly, said Susan Dyer, a human resource specialist with Retirement Services.

"The erroneous payments were the catalyst that caused us to freeze the system so that only the best dates could be entered at the highest level," Dean said, and no one at the installation could overwrite those dates."

Only personnel at the Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center will be able to change dates for enlisted soldiers and the Officer Personnel Management Division will handle officer dates.

"Soldiers can speed up the process by checking their Leave and Earning Statements under the DIEMS block, Dean said. "If the information is not correct they should start locating verification documents such as contracts or letters from the West Point Academy."

Mail

From front page

• Log on to the following Web sites to show support, to include greeting cards, virtual thank you cards and calling

card donations to help troops stay in contact with loved

http://www.defendamerica.m il/support_troops.html http://www.usocares.org/ho

http://www.army.mil/opera-

tions/iraq/faq.html. • Visit Department of

Veterans Affairs hospitals and nursing homes. Volunteer your services to honor veterans who served in past conflicts.

Mail from family members and loved ones has always been encouraged and the military mail system will continue to work hard to get that mail to service members overseas.



APG firefighter James Williams, left, and Pfc. Jeff Tomckak, 369th Engineer Detachment, lower a sliding basket containing a casualty, played by Spc. Christopher Brody, from the bus to the ground.



Spc. Jonas Gostonyi decends a ladder and Sgt. Dana Blasberg waits his turn as APG paramedic Timothy Richmond oversees the HAZMAT suit familiarization portion of their training.

Deploying troops sharpen skills with APG firefighters

Story and photos by Yvonne Johnson

Members of the U.S. Army Reserve 369th Engineer Detachment (Firefighting) are taking advantage of a temporary assignment on Aberdeen Proving Ground to brush up on their skills with seasoned federal Firefighters from APG Fire and Emergency Services.

Led by Chief Edward Budnick, assistant chief (acting) Donald B. Collier Sr. and Firefighters George Hollenbaugh and Steve Hinch, the groups came together March 18 for a Mass Casualty exercise held at the University of Maryland's Fire and Rescue Institute Training Center near Phillips Army Airfield.

Budnick said the training was a win-win situation.

"Our mission is to reinforce training, stay current and practice. This benefits our guys and their guys," Budnick said.

He added that most of the soldiers work in their own jurisdictions as volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel and that reserve units commonly monitor aircraft landing and fuel storage areas.

"This kind of training is new to some and a refresher for others," Budnick said. "Either way, you can't lose when you do something like this."

Hollenbaugh and other firefighters set up a bus accident sce-

nario with casualties and evaluated the soldiers in rescue and evacuation procedures. Later training included familiarization with Level A Hazardous Material suits with breathing apparatus and confined space scenarios.

Hollenbaugh said the training benefited both civilian and soldier firefighters.

"Exercises like this get everyone involved," Hollenbaugh said, noting how the unit's medical personnel were kept busy evaluating and preparing casualties for evacuation, while the firefighters used various apparatus to remove the most seriously

He added that the unit requested the training, and the facility, which has been there 12 years as part of a partnership between APG and the University of Maryland, made it easy to accommodate them.

"Several APG firefighters are certified instructors with MFRI," Hollenbaugh said.

"With a yearly recertification requirement, it's important to train regularly to stay proficient. A lot of departments spend thousands to do what we accomplish in house with very little expense," he said.

During the exercise, the soldiers evaluated, stabilized and removed eight casualties. Triage officer, Spc. Jonas Gostonyi, determined their status as far as method of evacuation. Using a walkie-talkie to consult with the emergency command center, Gostonyi said the day's training was realistic.

"As triage officer, they bring them to me and I determine their status. This is how it works in real world situations," Gostonyi said.

That afternoon, training included familiarization with HAZ-MAT suits. Hollenbaugh said the focus was to get the soldiers acquainted with the suits and how quickly they heat up along with the breathing apparatus.

They practiced putting on the suits then moved around, walking and climbing ladders, to observe the effect on their bodies.

At the end of the day, Hollenbaugh and the soldiers did a self evaluation to determine what was learned.

"I thought it was lots of fun," said Pfc. Matthew Hulme. "I've done it all before but its good to practice it before you lose it."

"It was a refresher for some and a learning experience for others," added Spc. Keith David.

The 20-year old firefighter said he learned how to use two different radio frequencies at the same time.

"It was the best training given the conditions," he said referring to the units pending deployment. It was good to have this to concentrate on."

ECBC director garners award

Timothy Lavery

The Federal Laboratory Consortium announced the selection of the technical director at the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center as Laboratory Director of the Year.

Jim Zarzycki will receive the award in May 2003 at a ceremony in Arizona.

"The selection process for the FLC award is extremely competitive, and we all deserve to be proud of this honor," Zarzycki said. "Because of the prestige of the award, being selected is an honor that recognizes both the excellence of ECBC's efforts and technology transfer program."

Since Zarzycki became technical director in 1998, the technology transfer program at ECBC has grown from 11 active Cooperative Research and Development Agreements to 43 active CRADAs, 11 patent license agreements, 24 new test service agreements, and 26 agreements with other government agencies.

Through this award, the National Advisory Council of the FLC honors a laboratory director who has made outstanding contributions to the overall enhancement of technology transfer for economic development. Accomplishments related to the transfer of technology from the federal laboratory to industry, including support of FLC activities, internal accomplishments, industry involvement, and community service, are the primary criteria for the award.

ECBC submitted a nomination that detailed ECBC's history of technology transfer, Zarzycki's personal involvement in ECBC technology transfer efforts internal to Edgewood, and his personal involvement with technology transfer initiatives external to the laboratory and the associated impact on the industry. The nomination also described an especially successful technology transfer effort that occurred during 2002.

Win \$300 for Mother's Day essay contest | CWF softball

Enlisted members who enter the USO-Metro's annual Mother of the Year Essay contest may win a trip for his/her mother and a guest to Washington, D.C. and a \$300 cash prize.

Each participant must write an essay of 500 words or less entitled, "Why My Mother Should be Honored on Mother's Day." The contest is open to all active duty enlisted personnel assigned to the greater Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area through May 11. Essays will be judged on originality, thoughtfulness and content.

All entries must be submitted by April 18 to: USO-Metro, Attn: Essay Contest, Bldg 405, 228 McNair Road,

Ft. Myer, VA 22211. In the event that an essay

does not win and entrant would like their essay to be forwarded to their mother, include her home address on the entry.

The winner of the contest will be awarded a \$300 cash prize and receive two round trip airfare tickets to the Washington-Baltimore area from any major airport in the continental United States, for his/her mother and guest.

On May 11, the winner, his/her mother and guest will be recognized at the annual USO-Metro Mother's Day celebration. Hotel accommodations and limousine transportation will be provided.

The winner will be notified on April 22.

For more information, call 703-696-2552.

league forming

The Civilian Welfare Fund is in the process of coordinating the Annual CWF coed Softball League.

Team fees will be collected to pay for umpires, softballs and awards.

Practice will begin during the first week of April.

Games will begin during the first week of May.

Teams interested in joining this league should contact the CWF Office at 410-278-4603/4771.

FEW

From page 2

accident in building 509.

If there is a silver lining to the events of that day, it is that the 12 women lost and the dozens of injured like Charlotte Johnson helped set in motion a process for improved safety standards that have safeguarded the lives of thousands of soldiers and civilians who followed in their footsteps.

Charlotte A. Johnson Chase still resides in Joppa and worships at New Destiny Evangelistic Ministries in Edgewood. An active 'Church Mother,' and a faithful member of the church's three choirs, she is well-known for taking every opportunity to speak, sing, pray, or shout out loud, giving glory to God for keeping her "among the living."



Photo courtesy SBCCOM Historical Research and Response Team Sunlight pours through the decimated rooftop of building 509 revealing the damage left behind from the impact of the May 25 explosion.



Charlotte A. Johnson Chase, right, celebrates life and her favorite hymn with keyboardist Michael Nelson during a recent choir rehearsal at her church, New Destiny Evangelistic Ministries in Edgewood.



Basketball champs



Members of the HHC 61st 2003 Intramural Basketball championship team pose with their trophies following the award ceremony in the Aberdeen Athletic Center. From left front, Col. Mardi U. Mark, APG garrison commander, Alan Bennett, Roderick Forts, Brian Cole, Donald Thompson and unit 1st Sgt. Norma Morant. From left rear, Jamaris Jackson, Otis Hewitt, Lamar Pryor, Brian Glenn, Amilcar Fernandez, Ira McCoy, Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Stallings and Col. Paul Meredith, Brigade Commander.

Commander's Cup Point Standings

The race for the 2003 Commanders' Cup is underway. The Commander's Cup is awarded each December to the unit that scores the most points in intramural sports during the year. Units garner points in basketball, the bench press competition, the 3-on-3 basketball tournament, racquetball, volleyball, softball, golf, the deadlift competition, soccer and football. Points are awarded for unit participation and division and post championship wins. The following units currently lead in Commander's Cup point totals.

First quarter		NCOA	24
HHC 16th	49	MRICD	23
Company E 16th	40	Company A 16th	19
Company C 16th	38	USAF	19
HHC 61st	36	Company B 16th	18
USMC	32	HHC 143rd	17
1/246th	31	389th	13
HST	29	Company C 143rd	12
Company B 143rd	26	KUSAHC	10

CPSC, MOSA Sports announce recall of bicycle helmets

Kim Dulic

Product Safety Commission, MOSA Sports, of the "FiVe" is much larger that the other letters. Hermosa Beach, Calif., is voluntarily recalling A label inside the helmet reads "990803" along about 1,250 "FiVe 40" inch brand bicycle hel-

mets. These helmets fail impact testing required under CPSC's Safety Standard for bicycle helmets, violating the Consumer Product Safety Act. Riders wearing these helmets are not adequately protected from falls, and could suffer head injuries.

CPSC and MOSA Sports have not received any reports of injuries or incidents involving these helmets. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injuries.

The "FiVe 40" helmets are black, white or red, and have the name "FiVe 40" printed on In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer the front and back of the helmet. The "V" in with the model name "540." These helmets were manufactured in China.

> Sporting goods stores nationwide sold these helmets from October 1999 through September 2001 for about

Consumers should stop using these helmets immediately and return them to the store where purchased or MOSA Sports for a refund or free replacement helmet.

For more information, consumers should call MOSA Sports at 1-800-804-0211 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. PT Monday through Friday.



HHC 61st Ordnance Brigade's Donald Thompson, second from left, draws a crowd as he pulls down a pass during his team's quadruple overtime win over Company E 16th Ordnance Battalion to take the intramural basketball post championship, March 17. Closing in from left, Zane Beegle, 20, and Erroll Colon, 40, Company E 16th, Otis Hewitt, 51, HHC 61st and Mark Fraser, 5, Company E 16th.

HHC 61st wins basketball championship

Four OT's beat Company E 16th, 60-57

Story and photos by Yvonne Johnson

The 61st Ordnance Brigade intramural basketball team completed its quest for a third consecutive post championship with a stunning quadruple overtime win over a diehard Company E 16th Ordnance Battalion, 60-57.

Many left before it was over due to the lateness of the hour, but those who did missed one heck of a finish.

The championship was played after a tough three-day playoff in which HHC 61st lost only once to Company E 16th who went undefeated.

Playing in the losers bracket, HHC 61st had to defeat Company E 16th twice to win and they played like it.

The games' high scorers were Donald Thompson on HHC 61st with 42 points in regulation and Mark Fraser who finished with 34 in regulation.

It was a fast-paced defensive game on both sides of the ball with impressive contributions from HHC 61st's Otis Hewitt, Alan Bennett, Brian Cole and Roderick Forts and Company E 16th's Zane Beegle who put up 23 points in the second game.

HHC 61st won the first game 46-39 then turned up the power on the second game but couldn't put Company E 16th away. Perhaps the most impressive play of game two was

when down 45-42 with 34 seconds left, Thompson caught an inbound pass at center court, circled his defender and sank a leaping three-pointer.

The game finished tied to force the first overtime.

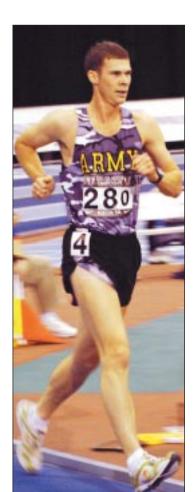
Fraser had nearly the same finish in the first overtime, moving untouched up-court to sink a layup for a 54-54 tie with 20 seconds left to the delight of Company E 16th fans. Amazingly, neither team scored during the third overtime. In the final overtime period, the teams stayed close, neither leading by more than two points until with only eight seconds left, and down 58-57, Company E was forced to foul Thompson who went to the line and made 2-of-2 to seal the win. A desperation attempt at a three-pointer by Company E's Beegle fell short as time ran out.

"They played with heart and gave it everything they had," said Company E 16th coach Joseph Stewart of his team. "They did a great job tonight. They're all champions."

HHC 61st coaches Forts and Hewitt agreed. "We knew if we kept up a solid defense and kept them off the free throw line we'd pull it out," Hewitt said.

"When it boils down to it, we know how to come together as a team," Forts added. "This team was outstanding tonight."

Soldier finishes 2nd in championship 5-K race walk



Army Spc. John Nunn records the third-fastest 5-K ever walked by an American to finish second in the 5,000-meter race walk in 19 minutes, 26.43 seconds in the 2003 USA Indoor Track & Field Championships in Boston March 2.

Tim Hipps

Army World Class Athlete John Nunn posted the third-fastest 5,000 meters ever walked by an American to lead the U.S. Army's contingent in the 2003 USA Indoor Track & Field Championships at Reggie Lewis Track & Athletic Center March 2.

"That was an amazing, unbelievable race for him," said New York Athletic Club's Tim Seaman, who won the 5,000-meter race walk event for the sixth consecutive year in 19 minutes, 21.56 seconds, just three ticks off the American record of 19:18.40 set in 1987 by Tim Lewis. "I knew that John was in very good shape and that he would be very tough today."

Spc. Nunn, who just came down from a month of training in the lofty altitude of Cuenca, Ecuador, said he was pleased.

"That's impressive; that's very good," Nunn said of eclipsing his personal best by more than a minute to finish in 19:26.43. "I feel like there's a lot more to give. I had no clue that we were that close [to the American mark].

"My fourth kilometer was a little slow. That's where I lost it," Nunn said. "And then with one kilometer to go, I don't think I started kicking soon enough.'

During the waning laps, excitement nearly got the better of Nunn, who was on the verge of upsetting the current king of American race walking.

"The problem comes on an indoor track with a banked curve, you have a tendency to probably lift a little more and more calls are given, especially with race walking," Nunn explained of the event in which one foot always must maintain contact with Mother Earth. "Having lapped third place [Curt Clausen, who finished in 20:38.34], I wasn't content with second, but I knew I would risk a chance of getting dis-

qualified if I really hammered it on the last couple of

"It's always easy for me to say I had more to give after the race. Hindsight is 20-20 after the race is over, but looking at it, I feel very confident there was a lot more to give."

Nunn passed Clausen and moved into second place behind Seaman around three kilometers.

"That was probably the time to move up and sit on [Seaman's] shoulder and just let him work," Nunn admitted. "That was an immature move on my part, just not knowing, but this is the first indoor race I've done since 1997.'

Wiley veteran Seaman also realized that.

"He came to Nationals in '97, but he was a kid," Seaman said of Nunn, 25, who has been concentrating on race walking since November of 1999. "He wasn't training with us, and that's different."

So is having the support of the U.S. Army's World Class Athlete Program, which allowed him to join three members of the U.S. Race Walking Team in Ecuador. The WCAP is one of many Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs delivered to soldiers and families worldwide through the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center.

"I was a little skeptical about what was going to happen at altitude, but I spoke to the WCAP officials and they were very supportive of me going to altitude, knowing what good it can do," said Nunn, an infantryman from Evansville, Ind. "It cost five hundred dollars for the entire month we were in Ecuador for room and board. There was no sightseeing. All we did was train in the morning, rest in the afternoon, and train again in the evening."

Nunn's altitude training was for much more than a runner-up finish at the USA Indoor Track & Field Championships. He will compete March 8 in the Mexican Walk Week 20-K at Tijuana, Mexico, and March 15 in the Pan Am Cup 20-K at Chula Vista, Calif.

"Altitude was geared towards walking a 20-K," Nunn explained. "This was just an intermittent fun stop, which turned out to be extremely profitable as far as confidence-building. I felt very good today. Yesterday, I did a 3K race-pace workout and I walked 12 minutes and 10 seconds, so I felt very confident coming into the race."

The hardest part of Nunn's day was the two hours it took to muster a measurable urine sample for drug

"It wasn't that I was dehydrated, it was that I was over-hydrated," he said. "The consistency level was too diluted, so they made me sit in there and just wait. I would've felt a lot better being there if this was the Olympic Trials, knowing that I'm on my way to the Olympic Games."

A trip to Athens, Greece, for the 2004 Summer Games looms foremost on Nunn's mind.

"Not just to go to Athens, but to go and represent the country very well and be able to say the past four years of training has been phenomenal and being a representative of the Army has been great," he said. "To go and actually represent the country well and compete at a level that hasn't been competed at before, I feel capable of doing.

"The WCAP program is phenomenal. It gives athletes a wonderful opportunity to represent the Army and to get the Army name out there. We are soldiers first. That is our full-time job. I understand that and I

"If given the opportunity or the situation arises where they ask for us to depart from the WCAP program to go and represent the country in another form, be that defending our country and our freedom, then I'm ready to go."

(Editor's note: Tim Hipps writes for the Army Community and Family Support Center Public Affairs Office.)